

WASH

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EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT.

## MORNING PAPERS.

SATURDAY August 21st, 1948.

"Firm action against some foreign correspondents".

Under the above heading, Al Misri writes: "The responsible officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have noticed that European and American newspapers had embarked on a big campaign against Egypt in the shape of articles sent to them by their Cairo correspondents with a view to harming Egypt and the Arab countries. It has therefore been decided to take firm action to combat this prejudice which harms Egyptian reputation. The action to be taken will be as just as the action taken by all European and American countries in such cases.

"The Press and Information section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was charged with the task of taking the necessary action. Every foreign correspondent has been instructed to submit to the Press Section the clippings from his newspapers containing the articles and news which he sent to his paper. Any news or articles contrary to truth would result in the immediate cancellation of the correspondent's residence visa.

"Mohamed Handy, director of the Press and Information section had a conference with a large number of foreign correspondents and explained to them that they would not be blamed for publishing constructive criticism, but there is no justification for fabricating false news and stories which are far from being truthful or fair. He cited the case of some foreign papers whose correspondents had been ordered to leave the country immediately after their prejudice against this country had become apparent.

"We learned that by checking the clippings containing the articles written by some foreign correspondents in Egypt, the Press section came across some bad cases. The decision to deport these correspondents will be carried out after they are given a final warning. Among these correspondents, one English and the other American".

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Important interview with Azzam Pasha.

Al Kutla had the following important interview with Secretary-General of the Arab League Azzam Pasha:

Q - How bad is the situation in Jerusalem?

A - Very bad indeed. The repeated attacks of the Jews aim at capturing the whole of the city. The Jews have become very conceited but the Arabs will defeat them as their ancestors defeated other invaders before. The Arabs were never more united than they are at present. They have been very patient about Jewish aggression in Jerusalem but they exercised this remarkable self restraint in order to save the holy shrines from destruction. They have, however, taken every precaution to thwart any attempt by the Jews to capture Jerusalem.

Q - What is your comment on the Security Council's attitude?

A - Its attitude has convinced the Arab countries that it is biased in favour of the Jews. If the Arabs committed part of the violations which were committed by the Jews, the Security Council would have applied sanctions against the Arabs.

Q - Do you not think that Jewish violation of the truce in Jerusalem justifies the resumption of war by the Arabs?

A - The present policy of the Arab countries is to reply to Jewish attacks whenever and wherever they take place.

Important statement.

Azzam Pasha then continued: "Of course the only solution to the Palestine question is war. This war will be long. The Arab countries accepted the truce only because they wanted to benefit by it, and they have benefited. They have become stronger by accumulating arms in preparation for the next stage. No doubt the Arabs will emerge victorious. Fifty million people who are of the same race, have the same aim, and supplied by inexhaustible resources, must win no matter how long the war takes.

Q - Public opinion demands that the Arab countries especially Saudi Arabia employ the oil weapon to counteract the help of some big countries to Zionism. Do you agree?

A - Saudi Arabia has done its duty in this respect in accordance with the resolution of the Arab League's Political Committee. She has informed the American government of her strong disapproval of its hostile attitude towards the Arabs and threatened to take action against the American oil companies. Moreover the project concerning the extension of the oil pipelines from Saudi Arabia across Arab territory to the Mediterranean (a project costing \$ 150,000,000) has been suspended. Syria and Lebanon have refused to let the pipelines be extended across their territories.

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Q - What steps have the Arab countries taken in connection with the coming meeting of the U.N. General Assembly?

A - The Arab countries have coordinated their efforts and will follow the same policy. The Arab League Secretariat has established two offices for propaganda, one in Paris and the other in London. The Paris office will be headed by a former Lebanese Cabinet Minister, and the London office by a gentleman who is known for his pro-Arab sympathies and who is an expert on publicity.

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Arab Affairs.

Transjordanian Army Command put under Iraqi High Command. Iraqi Regent and P.M. visit Amman.

The Beirut correspondent of Al Misri reports that Regent of Iraq Prince Abdulilah, and Iraqi Prime Minister Muzahim Al Pachachi, have left for Amman on August 20th to attend to details concerning the question of putting the Transjordanian and Iraqi armies under one high command namely that of Iraq. A communiqué to this effect has been issued in Baghdad, reports Al Misri.

"No doubt this unification of the military Command will lead to many changes in the trend of events", says the paper which also reports that Iraqi P.M. Al Pachachi will go to Beirut to see Riad Al Solh after he finishes his work at Amman, and will then come to Egypt to confer with Nokrashi Pasha and Azzam Pasha.

Al Misri alleges that the Iraqi government has sent a note to the British Ambassador in Baghdad in which it said that seeing that the Transjordanian army command is going to be put under the Iraqi army High Command, it suggests that the British government might advise the British officers in the Transjordanian army to resign their commissions before they are dismissed by the Iraqi military authorities.

Akhbar El Yom agitates against King Abdullah.

Akhbar El Yom, the important pro-government weekly, publishes an alleged message from its alleged Baghdad correspondent in which he says: "I learned from a most reliable source that Lebanese Prime Minister Riad Al Solh Bey had written an important memorandum concerning his secret discussions concerning Palestine.

"In his memorandum, Riad Al Solh Bey said that Egypt behaved correctly, that it was Transjordan's attitude which forced all the Arab countries to accept the truce, and that the meeting which took place at Amman and the statements made by King Abdullah made Egypt rather worried and she (Egypt) sent Azzam Pasha to Amman to try to smooth matters.

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"Riad Al Solh Bey also said that Egypt was not responsible for the decision to stop the fight, that Iraq did not want the truce, and that Egypt spared no effort in helping Palestine either in peacetime or wartime".

The alleged correspondent then goes on to say: "It may be added that some American and French newspapers published stories to the effect that Iraq accused Egypt of forcing the Arab countries to accept the truce. Riad Al Solh's memorandum should settle this matter. The Iraqi leaders are now well-aware of Egypt's commendable attitude".

The Arabs are thinking of resuming the fight.

Akhbar El Yom reports that the Arab governments are seriously thinking of resuming the fight in Palestine, "because the Jews will not abandon their attitude except by force". It also says that the unification of the Trans-jordanian and Iraqi military Commands is but a prelude to the unification of all the Arab High Commands. The Iraqi Prime Minister who is expected to arrive in Egypt after a day or two will discuss this question with the Egyptian authorities, says Akhbar El Yom.

The Iraqi Regent may also visit Egypt.

Akhbar El Yom reports that Regent Abdulilah of Iraq may visit Egypt in the near future to confer with King Farouk on Arab questions.

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Egyptian army officer escapes Jewish captivity. Alleges Jews confessed to the Cicurel explosion.

Akhbar El Yom publishes a story which covers one and half pages, concerning the escape from Tel Aviv of one Captain Abbas Hafez who was taken prisoner in the Palestine war. According to the weekly, the officer told the Egyptian authorities that the Jewish Intelligence officer who interrogated him had said to him: "One of our planes dropped a bomb on the Cicurel establishment in Cairo. It was unfortunate that the bomb hit Cicurel for it was meant to destroy another objective not far from Cicurel". (meaning Abdine Palace).

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Arm factories in Egypt.

Akhbar El Yom writes: "Egypt signed this week some important contracts for the establishment of arm factories in the country. Egypt has drawn up a program which, once put into effect, will enable the Egyptian arm factories to arm the Arab and Middle East armies".

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Al Misri criticises Count Bernadotte.

Under the headline: "The Mediator's attitude", Al Misri writes: "The Security Council met on August 19th not to examine the Arab refugees problem or to take a decision on the Jewish violation of the truce, but to treat the Arabs who respected the truce in the same way as it treats the Jews who persistently violate the truce. The Security Council also listened to a strange report submitted to it by Count Bernadotte in which he said: "Under prevailing conditions, it is difficult to assess responsibilities and to try to ascertain which of the parties is more to blame". The supposedly neutral mediator dares to write such a thing when his own observers report that the Jews alone are guilty of violating the truce. No doubt, it was the mediator's misleading report which induced the Security Council to adopt a wrong attitude towards the Arabs".-----

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Sawt Al Umma says the Arab countries will not withdraw from the United Nations.

Sawt Al Umma, the Wafdist daily, quotes "An Egyptian Foreign Ministry source" as saying that the Arab countries have no intention to withdraw from the United Nations.

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Wafdist paper calls article by President of Chamber of Deputies "Blasphemy".

(See Review of August 19th Page 4).

Sawt Al Umma expresses its strong disapproval of the article written by Maitre Hamed Gouda, the President of the Chamber of Deputies, in Al Assas on August 19th in which he advocated that Egypt should not press Britain to evacuate the Suez Canal Zone, by designating the article as "blasphemy".

The daily remarks that Gouda is a Saadist and therefore advises Mokhrashi Pasha not to do anything about British occupation of the Suez Canal area so that the Prime Minister might not find himself in difficulties from which he might not be able to disentangle himself.

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Mr Ambassador's arrival in Egypt.

Akhbar El Yom writes: "The new American Ambassador will arrive at Alexandria on Tuesday on board the Egyptian ship Malik Fouad. His government advised him to travel by an Egyptian ship instead of by airplane. He therefore took Malik Fouad from Genoa".

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Tuberculosis in Egypt.

Al Misri devotes an editorial to the report submitted by Dr. Omar Shawky, Director of the Medical Section at the Ministry of Social Affairs, to the Egyptian authorities concerning tuberculosis in Egypt. In his report, Dr. Shawky says that 300,000 Egyptians suffer from this disease, and that the average yearly deaths up to the year 1928 were 20,000 but this number jumped to 30,000 in 1947. Only four hospitals and twenty outpatient clinics in Egypt treat persons afflicted with this disease. The paper expresses alarm at these figures and urges the government to take immediate steps to combat this curse.

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